



Atty. Dkt. No. 040302-0278

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Isamu HOTTA et al.  
Title: EXHAUST EMISSION  
CONTROL DEVICE OF  
INTERNAL COMBUSTION  
ENGINE  
Appl. No.: 09/974,878  
Filing Date: 10/12/2001  
Examiner: Diem T. Tran  
Art Unit: 3748

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.116**

*approved for entry*  
*DT*  
*5/17/06*

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Final Office Action dated January 3, 2006, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

Applicant has enclosed with this amendment a Petition for Extension of Time to make this response timely.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows:

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